

A Second Record of a King-Crab from New Zealand Waters

By A. W. B. POWELL, Assistant Director.

The first recorded living example of a king-crab from New Zealand waters was published by Chilton in 1910. This example, which is in the Auckland Museum, was obtained by Mr. T. F. Cheeseman about 1908, who described the specimen as having been taken alive adhering to the stone facing of the Calliope Dock, Auckland. It was noted that no vessel had been in the dock for some considerable time. Mr. Cheeseman's identification of the specimen, based upon Pocock's 1902 revision, was *Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda* (Latreille), a species known from the Gulf of Siam, the Molluccas and the Philippines.

A second living king-crab was found on low tidal rocks at Katherine Bay, Great Barrier Island, about 1940 by Miss Freda Vera Davies, Motairehe, Great Barrier Island. This specimen is a male of the East American *Limulus polyphemus* Linn. It measures 315 mm. in total length, tail 133 mm. and maximum width of the cephalothorax 140 mm. The form of the genital operculum is exactly as figured by Pocock (1902, pl. 5, fig. a) for *polyphemus*. The long slender chelicera and weakly spinose crest to the tail are identical with these features in examined specimens of *polyphemus* from Massachusetts. A careful comparison between the Great Barrier Island example and those from Massachusetts reveals no points of difference.

Undoubtedly both of these New Zealand examples came by means of shipping, but it is difficult to imagine how such a large creature could remain attached to a ship's hull during such lengthy voyages as instanced by the first record of an East Indian species and the second of one from Eastern America. It is worthy of note, however, that a living *Limulus polyphemus* was found in Copenhagen Harbour in the eighteenth century, having presumably been carried over from North America by clinging to the hull of a ship (Lankester, 1905, Q.J.M.S. 48, p. 229).

Mr. F. McNeil, of the Australian Museum, assures me that he knows of no records of king-crabs from Australian waters.

REFERENCES.

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- SMEDLEY, N., 1929. Malaysian King Crabs. *Bull. Raffles Mus.*, Singapore, 2, pp. 73-78.